

THE JACOBS REPORT

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GOVERNOR RECOGNIZED FOR PROMOTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has been recognized by the National Energy Efficiency Forum for her efforts to promote energy efficiency within state government.

“Michigan is proud to lead the nation in energy efficiency. Our commitment to protecting Michigan’s precious resources – both economic and environmental – is evident in our policies from cars to copiers,” Granholm said. “The reward is more than the millions of dollars saved or waste reduced, but a legacy of environmental sustainability.”

Granholm received the Forum’s Governor’s Award, honoring her efforts in promoting increased energy efficiency in state facilities and operations through Executive Directive 2005-4. The directive requires state government to reduce energy use 10 percent in all state-owned and operated buildings by 2008; and reduce state purchases of grid-based, power-line derived energy 20 percent by 2015. Completed audits of state-owned facilities show that the state can potentially save \$4 million by becoming more energy efficient.

The state has already made changes in accordance with Granholm’s executive directive and is now using energy efficient light bulbs; requiring newly acquired electronics and appliances to be Energy Star compliant and certified; and adding hybrid cars to the state’s fleet.

Granholm continues to encourage efficient energy use by asking department directors to identify additional areas in which the state can encourage energy efficiency and clean technology initiatives.

MEDICARE’S NEW COVERAGE: QUICK FACTS

Starting January 1, 2006, Medicare will offer prescription drug coverage for all people with Medicare. If you have Medicare and have limited income and resources, you may qualify for extra help paying for prescription drugs.

Things to know:

- If your annual income is below \$14,355 for a single person (or \$19,245 if you are married and living with your spouse), you may qualify for extra help. Slightly higher income levels may apply if you provide ½ support to other family members living with you, or if you work or reside in Alaska and Hawaii.

- And if your resources (including your savings and stocks, but not counting your home or car) are under \$11,500 (for a single person) or under \$23,000 (for a married couple) you may qualify for extra help paying for your Medicare prescription drug costs.
- You can apply for this extra help through the Social Security Administration or your State Medical Assistance Office. Social Security is mailing the application for extra help to those who may qualify. If you receive an application, fill it out and return it in the enclosed postage paid envelope.
- The amount of extra help you get depends on your income and resources.
- You still need to join a Medicare prescription drug plan for Medicare to pay for your drug costs.
- You can join a Medicare prescription drug plan from November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006. If you join by December 31, 2005, your coverage begins January 1, 2006. If you join after January 1, 2006, your coverage starts the first day of the month after the month you join.
- If you qualify for extra help, you will have continuous drug coverage and will pay only a small amount for your prescriptions.

For more information on who can get extra help with prescription drug costs and how to apply, call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213, or visit www.socialsecurity.gov on the web. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778. You will receive detailed information from Medicare about your choice of Medicare prescription drug plans in October 2005. You can look at the “Medicare & You 2006” handbook, visit www.medicare.gov on the web or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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